

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FY 2007 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

As set forth in 24 CFR Part 91, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires state agencies which administer certain HUD programs to incorporate their planning and application requirements into one master plan called the Consolidated Plan. In Louisiana the four state agencies participating in this consolidated planning process and the HUD-funded programs administered by each agency include the Division of Administration/Office of Community Development (Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program), the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (HOME Investment Partnerships and American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) Programs), the Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services (Emergency Shelter Grants Program), and the Department of Health and Hospitals/HIV/AIDS Program (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program). A summary of the programs follows.

The **Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program** provides financial assistance to parishes of less than 200,000 persons and municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 in their efforts to provide a suitable living environment, decent housing, essential community facilities, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community infrastructure systems such as water, sewer, and street improvements, community centers, housing rehabilitation, and economic development assistance in the form of grants and loans. Projects funded under this program must principally benefit persons of low and moderate income.

The objectives of the **HOME Investment Partnerships Program** are: to expand the supply of decent and affordable housing for low and very low income persons, to stabilize the existing deteriorating owner occupied and rental housing stock through rehabilitation, to provide financial and technical assistance to recipients/subrecipients, and to extend and strengthen partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector, including for-profit and nonprofit organizations, in the production and operation of affordable housing. The purpose of the **American Dream Downpayment Initiative Program** is to assist low income families who are first time homebuyers purchasing single family housing. The monies are used to assist in the payment of up front costs (downpayment assistance including closing cost assistance) associated with the purchase of a principal residence.

The purpose of the **Emergency Shelter Grants Program** is to help local governments and community organizations to improve and expand shelter facilities serving homeless individuals and families, to meet the cost of operating homeless shelters, to provide essential services, and to perform homeless prevention activities.

The **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program** provides localities with the resources and incentives to devise and implement long-term comprehensive strategies for

meeting the housing needs of persons with acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases and their families.

The four agencies administering these programs are beginning to prepare the Consolidated Annual Action Plan for FY 2007. The Consolidated Annual Action Plan will include a one year action plan for the proposed distribution of funds received under the FY 2007 federal funding allocation for the aforementioned HUD programs.

The State will hold a public hearing to obtain views on the housing and community development needs of the State; those comments will assist the agencies in developing the Consolidated Annual Action Plan for FY 2007. For those persons who are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments on the needs of the State may be submitted beginning March 30, 2006 and will be accepted until April 10, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to the Office of Community Development, Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095 or faxed to 225-342-1947.

The public hearing will be held on March 30, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. in the V. Jean Butler Board Room in the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency building. The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency is located at 2415 Quail Drive which is off of Perkins Road near the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. This facility is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. Non-English speaking persons and persons with other disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact the Office of Community Development at 225-342-7412 or at the mailing address or fax number in the preceding paragraph at least five working days prior to the hearing.